

Conservation Connections



St. Louis Regional Newsletter Missouri Department of Conservation

April 2011

Just Say “NO!” to ‘Bradford’ Pears!

by Mark Grueber, MDC Urban Forester

For a number of years many foresters, arborists, and horticulturists have been lamenting the popularity of the ‘Bradford’ pear tree in the home and commercial landscape. Most of us are frustrated because of its tendency to break apart in wind or ice storms once the tree achieves a decent size. Despite the development of the so-called “improved” varieties, many of us still tried to dissuade the masses from planting this tree in their landscape. Unfortunately, all you have to do is take a look around the St. Louis area this spring and you’ll see that we failed. So why would a forester have such a personal vendetta against a tree?

Let me start with a little background. ‘Bradford’ pear is actually a cultivar (cultivated variety – which essentially means the tree has been “cloned” through propagation methods like taking cuttings) of the species Callery pear. Callery pear grows naturally in China, Japan and other parts of Asia. Specific trees were selected because of their

shape, flower production or fall color, propagated and then given a name such as ‘Bradford,’ ‘Aristocrat,’ ‘Cleveland Select,’ and many others.

These named cultivars were once thought to be fruitless, but because of sheer numbers and their ability to cross-pollinate, most of them bear a small, berry-like fruit. This fruit is eaten by some birds – often by nuisance species such as starlings – and small mammals who then plant them around the landscape. Because of cross-pollination, the seeds have the genetics of Callery pear rather than the named cultivar. Look along the sides of interstate and other large highways and you’ll see the evidence: thousands of small Callery pear trees carpeting the ground, smothering grasses, wildflowers, and other Missouri native trees that birds, mammals and other wildlife species depend on for food and cover.

The wildlife species that we enjoy have relied upon native insects, plants and other animals for food and shelter for

a long period of time. When plants like Callery pear and bush honeysuckle that have only grown in Missouri for decades take over, many species of wildlife must move to another area or decline in number. With Callery pear rapidly reproducing itself in staggering numbers why must we wait to act until it gets virtually out-of-control like bush honeysuckle?

The next time you’re considering the purchase of an ornamental tree for your landscape, find out whether the tree is a Missouri native. Flowering dogwood (our state tree), eastern redbud, serviceberry, blackhaw, red buckeye, and white fringetree are just a small sample of alternative species that grow naturally in Missouri and enhance wildlife habitat. You can find more information at: www.grownative.org or www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder/Search.asp and check the box “Missouri Native.”

Do your part to enhance Missouri’s wildlife habitat – plant Missouri native plants!



Callery pear trees prevent the growth of native species.

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

April 2011

801 Strodman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 Office hours are Wednesday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday - Sunday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 877- 6014 Wednesday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom

9 Wing Bone Call

*Saturday 9 a.m. – Noon
& Sunday 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.*

(Ages 10 & up) Did that wise ol' tom from last season give you a bone to pick with him? Then join us for a two-part class on turning that wing bone into three and make a call that will bring all the toms in. If you don't have your own, we will provide raw turkey wings and take you through all of the steps to making a turkey call, much as the pioneers did years ago. Wing bone calls have definitely attracted many fans and toms over the years. (Reservations begin March 26.)



16 Full Moon Over the Confluence

Saturday 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

(Ages 7 & up) Spring is well underway. Enjoy the warm night breezes as we take a leisurely walk from the Slough to the Confluence to see the full moon rise where our two great rivers become one. We help you discover nature's nightshift as they engage in their evening activities. Look for bats and moths as they glide silently by and listen for the calling of toads and frogs. We may even catch a glimpse of "eyeshine," proof that we aren't the only ones on the lookout. Meet at the Slough Exploration Station, four miles from the area entrance. (Reservations begin April 2.)

29 Hootin' & Howlin' Family Hayride

Friday 7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

(Families) Hay! Do you know that night time is the right time for Missourians to discover and experience the sounds of nature? Have you ever heard an owl hoot, frog chirp or coyote howl? Find out "whoo" is hooting and howling on a fun-filled hayride. Listen to the sounds that Missouri's wildlife has to offer in Columbia Bottom's mosaic of habitats. (Reservations begin April 15.)

30 Hootin' & Howlin' Hayride

Saturday 7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

(Adults) Hay! Do you know that night time is the right time for Missourians to discover and experience the sounds of nature's wildlife? Have you ever heard an owl hoot, frog chirp or coyote howl? Listen to hear the sounds that Missouri's wildlife has to offer in Columbia Bottom's mosaic of habitats. (Reservations begin April 16.)

Kudos to Conservation Department Volunteers!

By: Angie Weber, Regional Volunteer Coordinator

For many people April is the month to enjoy spring wildflower hikes, morel mushroom hunting, turkey hunting, fishing, birding, and many other outdoor activities. However, it is also the time to celebrate National Volunteer Week which will be held April 10 – 16, 2011. National Volunteer Week was established in 1974 by President Richard Nixon to promote volunteerism in our communities and to honor the people who have dedicated themselves to take action. This week continues to be endorsed by Presidents, governors, mayors, and other elected officials and is acknowledged by many organizations throughout the United States. On behalf of the Missouri Department of Conservation, I would like to thank all volunteers in St. Louis for their time, talents, and energy that they devote to the Department each year. Their combined efforts enable the Missouri Department of Conservation to offer numerous special events, general public programs, guided hikes, youth hunts, fishing classes and clinics, and hunter education certification classes. Among their other job duties, volunteers provide outreach to the public and operate two manned shooting ranges in St. Louis vicinity. Missouri Department of Conservation volunteers are truly an invaluable resource that helps people of all ages and interests discover nature.

To inquire about volunteer opportunities with the Missouri Department of Conservation, please contact Angie Weber, Regional Volunteer Coordinator at 636-300-1953 ext. 224.

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 2 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/busch

2 Wetlands for Kids

Saturday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

(All Ages) Learn about wetlands and the critters that call them home at **Wetlands for Kids**. Kids will see live birds of prey, create wetland artwork, explore a beaver lodge, practice their air rifle and archery skills, view live snakes and turtles or watch retriever dogs in action. Visit more than 15 stations to learn about nature through hands-on adventures such as fly-tying, a scavenger hunt, or the Duck Wing Maze. Sample fried fish from Missouri's big rivers, or purchase food and beverages from the on-site concessionaire.



Each child who registers will receive a free Ducks Unlimited Greenwing membership, which includes a one-year subscription to the *Puddler* magazine. (No Reservations Necessary.)

9 Amphibian Night Hike

Saturday 7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

(Adults) Witness a “marsh concert” presented by the toads and frogs of Missouri. Join us on a 2-mile hike for an evening on the levies at the Marias Temps Clair Conservation Area and learn to identify toads and frogs by their calls. Please dress for the weather and bring a small flashlight. (Reservations begin March 25.)

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20 Dyeing Eggs Naturally

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 5 – 12) Easter is just around the corner, what are your plans for egg dyeing? This year, skip the store and instead use wild berries, plants and colors to create beautiful dyes and designs for your holiday. Please bring six hard boiled eggs. (Reservations begin April 6.)

22 Earth Day Nature Hike

Friday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

(Families Ages 10 & up) View the earth in one of its finest seasons, spring! We encourage you to bring cameras, journals, and/or field guides as we will be looking for wildflowers, spring amphibians, and much more. To help you get the most out of your experience with nature, please dress for the weather. (Reservations begin April 8.)

23 Bird ID & Flyways Scout Discovery Tables

Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(All ages) Have you ever wondered what that bird is at your feeder, or where those highways in the sky are? Join us to identify birds, learn about migration, and view birds in their natural habitats. The Discovery Table meets the Cub Scout requirements for **Wolves**: Birds Elective 13d; **Webelos**: Naturalist #3 and #5; **Juniors**: wildlife #3 and #8. Also appropriate for **Brownies**. (No reservations necessary.)

30 Mountain Lions in Missouri and Their Natural History in North America

Saturday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

(Ages 12 & up) Due to recent sightings in Missouri, there is increasing awareness and concern of Mountain Lions around us. Learn and understand the natural behavior of Mountain Lions and what we can do to minimize interaction with humans. (Reservations begin April 15.)

16 Spring Wildflower Walk

Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(Families) Take a walk on the Woodland Trail to see spring wildflowers in bloom. Learn and practice wildflower identification by viewing a slideshow prior to the hike. Please bring a wildflower guidebook to practice with your field guide, or borrow one of ours. (Reservations begin April 1.)

16 Amphibian Night Hike

Saturday 7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

(Families all ages) Witness a “marsh concert” presented by the toads and frogs of Missouri. Join us on a 2-mile hike for an evening on the levies at

Rockwoods Reservation

April 2011

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road.

Visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/regions/st-louis/rockwoods-reservation>

8 Goodness Snakes Alive

Friday 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

(Ages 4 - 6) Are snakes really slimy? How do they move, smell, hear and catch their food? Learn the answers to those questions and lots of other neat stuff about snakes. Observe live snakes found in Missouri and even touch some of them if you want. Come prepared to take a short hike to see if we can observe any snakes in their natural habitat. Please dress for the weather. (Reservations begin March 25.)



9 Snakes and Lizards

Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

(Ages 7 - 12) How many "poisonous" snakes are there in Missouri? Can a lizard grow a new tail? Come find out the answers to those questions while learning about the snakes and lizards of Missouri. You will observe live snakes and even touch some if you want. Come prepared for a short hike to observe snakes and lizards in their natural habitat. (Reservations begin March 25.)

16 Making Beautiful Artistic Paper

Saturday 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

(Families with children ages 6 & up) Come join us for some fun as we teach you to make beautiful, artistic and colorful paper out of recycled forest products and plant material. (Reservations begin April 1.)

21 Beginning Compass

Thursday 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

(Ages 7 & up) GPS units are the new navigational tools, but what if the weather doesn't cooperate or your batteries fail? This class will teach you the fundamentals of using a compass. (Reservations begin April 7.)

27 Planting the Seed

Wednesday 10 a.m. - Noon

(Families) Spring is the perfect time to start nurturing your children to help love things that grow! Start the process off with easy care of native plants that eliminate the need for fertilizers and time consuming maintenance. We'll discuss the benefits of a child's garden, the best plants for beginners and create a starter plant to take home. (Reservations begin April 13.)

Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 877-1309 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Boulevard, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left onto Lindell. Continue on Lindell past Union Drive to Cricket, turn left. Take first available right onto Grand Drive. The Visitors Center is the tan brick, red tile-roofed building with arched windows, and a clock tower. It will be on the right side of the street. Free parking is available in the double lot to the left or on the street.

12 Class Acts: Fish

Tuesday 10 a.m. - Noon

(Ages 5 - 9) Our final installment of the vertebrate classes brings us to fish! What's to know about them? You'd be amazed. This program will be held both in and outdoors, so dress for the weather. Meet at the Dennis and Judith Jones Visitor & Education Center in Forest Park to begin your discovery! (Reservations begin March 29.)

17 Earth Day at Forest Park

Sunday 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

(All Ages) Come one, come all to the 22nd Annual Earth Day in Forest Park! The Missouri Department of Conservation will be there to provide fun, educational activities along with so many others. Check out <http://www.stlouisearthday.org>



This publication is produced locally. Please e-mail us at ConservationConnections@mdc.mo.gov with questions, comments, or concerns. Thank you.

Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

April 2011

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304

Hours are: December 1 - March 31 open Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

April 1 - November 30 open Monday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Tuesday from 2 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Closed all State and Federal Holidays.

For program reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 5 miles. The area entrance is on the south side of Hwy D. Visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/busch>

13 Discover Hunting: Shotgun Patterning



Wednesday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(Ages 11 & up) Does your shotgun really shoot

where you aim? This class will help to determine the point of impact for your gun. We will shoot lead and steel shot, different chokes, shot sizes, and different brands. You will need to furnish your own shotgun and ammo. This program will be held at the Busch Shooting Range. (Reservations begin March 14.)

20, 21 Basic Shotgun

Wednesday & Thursday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(Ages 11 & up) Interested in learning how to shoot shotguns? This is a great instructional course to get you started. As a student you will learn the fundamentals of safe and accurate shotgun shooting. Our primary emphasis will be on safety while we cover shotgun types, ammunition, shooting stance, lead and proper technique. The first night will be at the main office at the August A. Busch CA and the second part will be held at the shooting range for hands-on experience. Participants under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. You may bring your own shotgun or we can supply the firearms. (Reservations begin March 21.)

27, 28 Basic Skeet

Wednesday & Thursday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(Ages 14 & up) This program is designed for those who have some experience with shotguns, and want to improve their skills, learn the basics of skeet shooting and become successful at this exciting sport. The class portion will cover layout of field, chokes, distances, stances, gun mount, different techniques and above all, safety. The first night will be at the main office at the August A. Busch CA and the second part will be held at the shooting range for hands-on experience. You can bring your own equipment or we can provide it for you. (Reservations begin March 28.)

Hunter Education Volunteer Awards

By Liz Lyons, Conservation Education Supervisor

Each year, volunteer hunter education instructors teach the basics of safe hunting, firearm safety, and hunting ethics to thousands of Missourians. Many instructors go above and beyond expectations—it is these instructors that we recognize as Instructors of the Year. This year, Barry Cagle, a St. Charles County hunter education instructor, received not only the St. Louis Region's Hunter Education Instructor of the Year Award, but also received the statewide Instructor of the Year Award. In addition to teaching many regular hunter education classes, Barry also taught a hunter education course for students at a St. Charles high school, and taught a week-long hunter education day camp for kids.



Becky Robertson received the Conservation Agent Instructor of the Year Award in the St. Louis Region. Becky visits a great number of student classes in the St. Louis Region, and teaches an outdoor skills/hunter education camp for girls in the summer.

A number of instructors received their 1000 hour award: Dennis Arnold, Mark Burns, Barry Cagle, Kevin Dixon, Don Draper, Steve Fleming, Gwen Morris, and Ron Rosson. Thank you for all your time and efforts! Congratulations to all our hunter education award recipients!

Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049

Range Hours: May 1 - August 31: Wednesday 1 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Thursday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

September 1 - April 30: Wednesday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Closed on Mondays and Tuesdays and all State and Federal Holidays.

For program reservations call (636) 938-9548 Wednesday through Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From the east/St. Louis: I-44 west to Beaumont/Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire road. One hundred feet to entrance. Left into driveway. From the west/Eureka: I-44 east to Beaumont/Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

Visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges>

2 Youth .22 Rifle

Saturday 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

(Ages 9 - 13) Interested young people who have never had experience shooting .22 rifles are invited to participate in a Saturday morning session learning safety and the proper techniques of shooting .22 rimfire rifles in a controlled, safe environment. We will learn safe gun handling and operation, bench rest shooting position, and shooting fundamentals. Firearms, ammunition, and safety equipment is provided. Class limit is 10. (Reservations begin March 2.)



Linda Carroll received the MDC Staff Instructor of the Year Award in the St. Louis Region. Linda is a Public Service Assistant at the Sullivan Office, answering phone calls and helping the general public with hunter education questions—always with a smile. She also voluntarily teaches hunter education classes in the region, going above and beyond with all her efforts.

9 Map, Compass, GPS

Saturday 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

(Ages 12 & up) This is an introductory program for anyone interested in outdoor direction finding, whether hunting, hiking, backpacking, or any outdoor activities off the beaten path. We will learn how to use a topographical map, the proper use of a navigation style compass, and also an introduction to the Global Positioning System (GPS). Dress for the weather; we'll be outside for part of this program. Technical information is inappropriate for ages under 12. Class size is limited to 24. Take a step in the right direction and sign up now. (Reservations begin March 9.)

16 Trigger Time - Handgun

Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

(18 & up) Trigger Time is "hands-on" personal instruction designed to make you a better marksman. There is no classroom time, just expert one-on-one instruction from one of our highly qualified staff. The instructor will observe shooting by each individual participant and offer suggestions on grip, stance, trigger-pull, sight alignment and the safe handling of firearms - all as may be relevant. Participants will be required to provide their own handguns and ammunition (at least 50 rounds). (Reservations begin March 16.)

16 Introduction to Trapshooting

Saturday 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

(Ages 12 & up) If you enjoy shooting a shotgun, but do not know the specifics of the game of trapshooting, then join us for this program. We'll learn the basics of competitive trapshooting. We'll cover appropriate guns and ammunition, rules of the game, etiquette on the field, and shoot a round for score. Trapshooting is a great lifetime sport. Firearms and ammunition will be provided, or you may bring your own shotgun. Class size is limited to 20. (Reservations begin March 16.)

28 & 30 Basic Handgun

Thursday 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

(Ages 16 & up) This program will include handgun operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. We'll start with a classroom session on Thursday evening, then a live-fire session on Saturday morning. Although equipment and ammunition will be provided, you may bring your own. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Class limit is 10. (Reservations begin March 28.)

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122

Building hours: Tuesday through Saturday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday and Monday: Closed

Area and trails: Open seven days a week 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. during Central Standard Time and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. during Daylight Saving Time.

2 Scout Discovery Table: Forest Trees

Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

(Families) Discover the wonders of Missouri forests while working on badge activities. This program is designed for Brownies, Junior Girl Scouts, and Webelos. **Brownies** can work on What's Out There?: Plants 2 and 4. **Juniors** can work on Let's Get Outdoors: Earth Connections 3, 4, and 8 and Explore and Discover: Science Discovery 5. **Webelos** can complete Outdoor Group: Forester 3 and 4. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. (No reservations required.)

5 The Forest in Spring

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

(Ages 3 & up) It's early spring of 2011, the International Year of the Forest. Around the world's northern hemisphere, forests are waking up. Sap rises in the trees. Leaves and flowers burst from the branches. We will join with the forests, the wildlife, and even the fish in greeting the new season. (Reservations begin March 22.)

9 Discover Nature – Women: Beginning Archery and Nature Hike at Emmenegger

Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

(Ages 14 & up, 14 -17 with a registered adult) Double

your fun with a two for one program! Hike at beautiful Emmenegger Nature Park. Observe, discuss, and identify plants and wildlife discovered along the way. Then: ready, aim, fire! Learn the basics of safe archery and practice your skills in an open field with stationary targets. All equipment will be provided. Please meet at the pavilion. The entire program will be outdoors, so please dress for the weather. (Reservations begin March 22.)

Powder Valley Conservation Day Camp Application

Tuesday, June 14 – Friday, June 17, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. and

Saturday, June 18, 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Ages 8 through 13 years

Conservation Day Camp is limited to 30 campers. Applications will be accepted through April 22, 2011. A lottery drawing will be used to determine participants. Chosen applicants will be notified via phone by April 27, 2011, and will receive a complete schedule of events and permission forms prior to the beginning of camp.

This year's camp will be four fun-filled days of conservation programs ranging from archery and fishing to dissecting owl pellets and aquatic studies. On Saturday parents/legal guardians will be asked to attend camp from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to learn about Missouri's fish, forests, and wildlife from their child!

Daily attendance is expected and parent/legal guardian participation on Saturday is strongly encouraged.

**Please complete this form and return to:
One family per application. Thank you.**

**Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center
Conservation Day Camp
11715 Cragwold Rd.
Kirkwood, MO 63122**

Parent/Legal Guardian Name

Address

Phone

Child's Name/Age

T-Shirt Size

T-SHIRT SIZE CHART

SIZE	S	M	L	XL
YOUTH	6-8	10-12	14-16	18-20
WOMEN	4-6	8-10	12-14	16-18
MEN	34-36	38-40	42-44	46-48

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

For reservations call (314) 301-1500

April 2011

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with five days notice. From I-44 take Lindbergh (Route 61/67) to Watson Road. Go west on Watson Road to Geyer Road. Go north on Geyer Road to Cragwold Road then one mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder

13 Nature's Niche: Soap Making

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

(Ages 50 & up) Making soap is fun and can be educational. Discover how early Missouri pioneers made soap using the ash from their fires and the suet from their butchered animals. Don't worry if you are squeamish! We will use modern-day ingredients to make soap you can take home and use. (Reservations begin March 29.)

16 Discover Nature – Families: A Tree Jamboree



Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

(All Ages) Celebrate Arbor Day the old fashioned way... by planting a tree! Come and learn about Missouri trees and what they have to offer. Be a part of the *International Year of the Forest* and participate in various tree activities. Discovery tables, storytelling, and a hidden naturalist activity will be waiting for you. At 1 p.m. our urban forester will present "Rootin' Around with Perry Eckhardt." in the auditorium. This presentation will discuss backyard tree management, and is geared toward adults. While supplies last, each family will receive a flowering dogwood seedling to take home and plant in their backyard while supplies last. (No reservations required)



19 Wonderful Worms

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

(Ages 6 & up) Anyone with a garden knows from experience that earthworms work wonders for the soil. How do they do it? And what kinds of lives do they live down there under the ground? We will learn more about these beneficial animals and we'll enjoy some earthworm crafts and activities too. (Reservations begin April 5.)

26 Beginning Birding

Tuesday 10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

(Ages 3 - 6) Join us as we learn about all the beautiful and cheerful birds in your backyard. We'll make "binoculars" and hike a trail too! (Reservations begin April 12.)

29 Amphibian Night at Forest 44

Friday 7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

(All ages) Join us as MDC Herpetologist Jeff Briggler teaches about native amphibians and takes us on an exploratory hike. Learn how to identify different species and calls before venturing out to the ponds of Forest 44 in search of chorusing frogs. Meet at the Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center, located at Highway 44 and Beaumont/Antire Road. Please dress for the weather and wear clothes and shoes that can get wet and muddy. (Reservations begin April 5.)



Powder Valley Hallway Exhibit

M.T. Barry

M.T. Barry is a native of Missouri. He grew up roaming the open fields and farmlands of what is now Chesterfield Valley and remembers, vividly, the splendor of those adventures. He has maintained his passion for nature and his love of American scenery for over forty years. Barry's photography evokes the beauty, majesty, and humor of his subjects and conveys these feelings within his art. Barry's photography may be viewed at the many art shows in the Midwest and on-line. His website is www.mtbarrystudios.com

